COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. XV. No. 2.] LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1809. [Price 10d.

"The foolishest of all hopes (to say nothing of the wickedness of it) is, that Napoleon will be beaten, and "that then, the Spaniards will quietly return to submission to their former government. There are, I "am afraid, people enough, who entertain such hopes; but, if they reflect for one moment, they must "be convinced, that it can never be accomplished; for, to resist Buonaparte will require, such language, "such sentiments, such active measures as to rank and property, as well as to warlike preparations, as "will so completely annihilate the old government, that it can never be restored."—POL. REGISTER, Vol. XIV. page, 105.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

MR. HERBERT.——This gentleman's address to the electors of Hampshire, a copy of which will be found immediately below * contains matter worthy of the notice, not of the people of Hampshire only, but of the whole nation. For the purpose of saving time, I have numbered the paragraphs. The FIRST contains nothing of general interest. Not so the SECOND and THIRD, which may be looked upon, and evidently was intended as an answer to the *pledge* demanded by me, and which pledge will be found in the last volume of the Political Register at page 841.——It is something, at any rate, to hear a candidate declare, that he never will accept of a *pension* or *sinecure*, and this declaration Mr. Herbert has distinctly made, in a manner the most likely to be remembered. I, therefore, conclude, that he means, under all possible circumstances, to adhere to this promise, and in that conclusion I have, I must confess, great pleasure. It is one step, at least, in the right path; and it is a step, which, with the sole exception of Lord Cochrane, no one, of late times, has, as far as I have observed, thought proper to take.——But, from *place* Mr. Herbert will not debar himself by any pledge. This he calls foregoing the prospects of *fair ambition*, and binding himself to *take no share* in the administration of public affairs.——The pledge, which I demanded, as the only terms, upon which I would give my vote, had no such object in view. As will be seen by reference to it, all that I wished to accomplish was this, that persons, once chosen to be the *guardians of the people's money*, never should, during their whole lives, pocket, either by themselves or their relations and depen-

* MR. HERBERT'S *Address to the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Southampton, dated, Highclere, Dec. 21, 1808.*

I.—I SHOULD have thought myself very deficient in respect to those, whom I once had the honour of calling my constituents, if upon a vacancy, when no candidate appeared in the field against me, I had not renewed the humble offer of my services. It is most pleasant to my feelings, that some, who were formerly hostile to my pretensions, should have spontaneously tendered their support; and I shall ever remember with gratitude and pride, that at a premature and surreptitious nomination, which the sheriff was persuaded to call without due notice, (though an active personal canvass had been undertaken by my opponent, with all the advantage of ministerial influence, though the greater part of my friends knew not of the meeting till the day was passed), the shew of hands in my favour should have been so numerous and respectable, that the sheriff should have paused for a time, and not without hesitation have pronounced his judgment. I must express my thanks for the profound attention with which the whole meeting, with which both parties heard my refutation, of a most unjust and unfounded misrepresentation, of my conduct in parliament, and for the universal expression of approbation at the part I had acted on that occasion.——II. Called upon at that meeting to declare that I would accept no office or pension, I pledged myself to reject every offer of a pension or sinecure, and to exert myself in parliament to dry the sources of corruption; and I applaud the motives that prompted the request. But further urged to debar myself from the prospects of fair and honourable ambition, and bind myself, at no future period to take any share in the administration of public affairs, I felt it my duty, not to myself only, but to the body of electors, but to the nation at large, to refuse a pledge, which if universally extorted from candidates would

dents, any part of that money. I said nothing about prohibiting any one from becoming a minister, or filling any office, upon any future occasion; but, then, I clearly meant, that, supposing him to fill any office, he should do it *without pay*, which, in many cases, at least, a man qualified to be a member of parliament, may very well do.——But, I confess, that my wish would be, that men who are chosen members of parliament, should *never* become servants of the king. A man cannot serve two masters; and, it matters very little, whether he be nominally the servant of both at one and the same time; or whether he be the nominal servant of one of them, while he is paving his way for being taken into the service of the other.——But in his THIRD paragraph, Mr. Herbert lets us see, that he thinks it right, and even necessary for the public good, that members of parliament should, at the same time, be servants of the king; that they should, in one and the same hour, ask for money in the latter capacity, and vote it in the former. This opinion being so directly at variance with plain common sense, it is worth while to examine into the reasons, upon which it is founded. He says, that, if members were to lose the right of questioning the ministers face to face, the debates would become unimportant; that the censures of the House would be little worth, and passed without a hearing; that evil counsellors, who *must* tremble at the awful moment when they are publickly called to account, would lull themselves in security, without the necessity and even without the means of justifying themselves to the nation; and, that the dread of meeting an able minority front to front, is, *in these days*, almost the only check upon the actions of ministers.——"*In these days*" is an important phrase; for, it is precisely because the "days" are what they are, that I wish for a *change*. Mr. Herbert's doctrine is in direct opposition to the *Act of Settlement*, which declares persons holding places of profit under the Crown to be incapable of serving as members of parliament. This act, till base and corrupt ministers found it troublesome, remained in force, and no inconvenience was experienced from it. Nay, when the act, as far as related to this important point, was repealed, the repealers, though most profligate men, had not the impudence to do it without an appearance of *preserving the principle*; and, therefore, they enacted, that, if a member accepted of a place of emolument *after* his election, his seat should, in consequence thereof, be vacated, in order to give the people who elected him when he had no place, an opportunity of rejecting him on account of his having a place.—Now, will Mr. Herbert say, that the object of this law was, and is, really what it professes to

---

be subversive of the constitution, and fatal to the liberties of the country.——III. If the ministers of the crown are to be excluded from parliament; if members are to lose that which is the best privilege of the representatives of the people, the right of questioning those ministers face to face before the public assembly; their debates would be frivolous, uninteresting, and unimportant; their censures would be little worth, and passed without a hearing; the advisers of the king, who, if they have erred through guilt or incapacity, must tremble at the awful moment when they are called upon publickly to account for their misconduct, would lull themselves in silent security, without the necessity, without even the means of justifying themselves to the nation. The dread of meeting an able minority front to front in parliament, is in these days almost the only check upon the actions of ministers.——IV. With sentiments most hostile to the corruption that preys upon the vitals of the kingdom, most eager for satisfactory investigation of public misconduct, I offered myself to your notice; but ministers cannot tolerate such freedom, and all the influence of government was armed against me, in favour of a gentleman not eligible to represent the county. With a majority, even under those circumstances, of independent electors in my favour, as the nomination on the 23rd appeared to witness, I was advised not to harass the county by the prolongation of a poll, which was deemed superfluous, when the only eligible opponent felt himself unable to cope with me, and declined the contest. I am grateful for the free and zealous friendship I have experienced, and that strong support which has deterred any eligible candidate from persevering at the poll. I trust that I shall be seated as your representative in parliament; and I hail the dawn of better days in this county, from the unsolicited assurances of support, in the present and any future contest, which I have received from freeholders connected with the dock-yard, who would not resign their mental independence, though harassed and persecuted by the agents of government.

be? Will he say, that the electors do really hereby obtain the opportunity stated above? I think, he will not; for it is impossible for him to produce me a single instance of a member of parliament having been prevented from again entering the walls of the House after having accepted of a place of profit under the Crown. It is notorious, that the vacating of the seat, upon such an occasion, is a mere matter of form. The Secretaries of State, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the rest of them, are appointed without any one entertaining the smallest doubt of their being again returned. Nay, when a change of ministry takes place, during a session of parliament, is it not notorious, that "the Opposition," as it is called, the regular body, upon the opposite benches, abstain from all warfare, till the enemies arrive; and do we not always hear it said, that such an one cannot come into the engagement till such a day, because, until that day his return cannot arrive? That this is the fact no one can deny. But, whether it be so, or not, Mr. Herbert is left in a dilemma, if he approve of the law as it now stands; for, suppose the people to obtain an opportunity of rejecting the member that becomes a placeman, and suppose them to reject him, of which the letter of the law implies the probability and even the propriety; suppose the electors of all the members, composing a new ministry, to reject them upon the score of place, and supposing there to be no good-natured, modest gentlemen, to give up their seats and their constituents to them; in that case, we should lose the amazing benefit, which Mr. Herbert perceives in the having of the ministers in the House; and, on the other hand, if this be *impossible*, or, if there be not the smallest chance of this, the law with respect to re-election is .....; and, those, who affect to see a security for the people in it, are ..... what I need not describe, and what I will not describe in terms other than those, which they so richly deserve. I will not wrong my thoughts by the using of words, which would be an inadequate expression of them.——But, the *debates*, Mr. Herbert says, would become frivolous and unimportant, if the king's counsellors and servants were not in the House. The *debates!* All is debate. Why, there is a standing order of the House against publishing any debate; and, moreover, any member may, whenever he pleases, cause the galleries to be cleared, and the doors to be locked against all spectators and hearers. It is, to be sure, a very valuable thing that we possess; a mighty thing for our liberties, that any one member, either of those for Old Sarum, without even a seconder, may, at any time, totally deprive us of.——But, Sir, *why* should the Debates become of no importance; of no interest at all to us, if the ministers and other placemen were kept out of the House? They might, indeed, be of little interest to those, who are now seeking for place through the means of debates; but, to the people: is it possible, that you can think, that the discussions of men, who were the real representatives of the people; who could scarcely have any views towards gain of any sort; who would be under no temptation to vote this way or that way to serve themselves, or to serve a party: is it possible, that you can think, that the discussions of such men would be less interesting *to the people*, than the wranglings of two parties, *always* opposed to each other, taking opposite positions in the House as naturally as two hostile armies, and well known to be contending for the places and emoluments which the Crown has to bestow? No, it is not possible; I assert, that it is not possible for you to believe, that the discussions of an assembly where, upon all great occasions, it is known before hand of which side each member will speak and vote; where it is known before hand what the result will be: I assert it to be impossible for you to believe, that the Debates of such an assembly, can be so interesting as the debates of an assembly, where there is no such foreknowledge, and where there is known to exist, generally speaking, nothing to bias the judgment of the members. You must have observed, Sir, the difference, which, in point of interest, is excited by the speeches of *Barristers* and that of the *Judge*. The cause of this is, not the superior ability of the Judge, for such is not always the case; not the novelty of the matter, for that has been already amply detailed; but solely the persuasion, that what is said by the Judge proceeds from an unbiassed mind. And, Sir, for this same reason, the debates of an assembly, not divided into regular parties, would, in the same degree, excite an interest greater than that which is excited by the debates of the House of Commons, as that House is now filled.——As to the advantage of "questioning the ministers face to face," they were so questioned, when they were excluded from parliament. They were

sent to the House by the king, to bear his Messages; to ask for Money in his name; and to give such explanations, as the representatives of the people required at their hands. There is, surely, nothing difficult in this. It is the regular and natural course of proceeding; but, can any one pretend, that it is natural; can any one pretend, that it is not a monstrous absurdity, that ministers, that the servants of the king, or, indeed, that any body else in this world, should be *called to account by themselves*; that they should sit in judgment, and vote, and assist in the deciding, upon the merits, or demerits, of their own conduct; and especially when it is known beforehand, when it is acknowledged to be essential to the very system, that they have, and must have, a majority in their favour, it being, according to that system, impossible for them to hold their places any longer than they have that majority?—— "Tremble at the *awful* moment of meeting an able minority!" You surprize me, Sir. What have they, as long as they can preserve their majority, to tremble at? When did you see a ministry tremble, except for the loss of their places? And why should they? But, if there were a House of Commons, without placemen or pensioners; consisting of men not capable of being placed or pensioned; if the race could not be for power and emolument; if the members could not, in the future, discover any motive for indulgence, and lenity with respect to the past; then, indeed, wicked or foolish counsellors would have good cause to "tremble at the awful moment of meeting," not an "*able* minority," but an *honest* majority, in parliament, who would not waste their time in making long *lawyer*-like speeches, in order to shew their fitness for conducting *wars* and *negotiations*; but, who, having only their own good, as connected with that of the public, in view, would busy themselves in doing that which belonged to their office, as guardians of the public treasure and the public liberty.——If the House of Commons contained no placemen; if it were unmixed with the servants of the king; if it were composed of men who never could touch the public money, can it be believed, that the public money would not be better taken care of? Besides the incompatibility of the two situations, in this respect, is it not evident, that a man, who has, for one half of the year, to fight daily battles in the House of Commons for the preservation of his place, must neglect the duties of that place? Is it not evident, that, if a man be compelled to give his mind up to debate and the preparation for debate, the duties of his office must be left to underlings, or be wholly neglected? Nay, is it not evident, that, if the possession of the place is to depend upon Debates in the House of Commons, he will fashion his measures and especially his appointments and other favours to that mould which is likely to insure him the greatest number of friends in that House; which fashioning would be useless for his purpose, were the members and the relations of the members incapable of receiving emoluments from the public purse?—— The king, too, would, if this were the case, be left free in his choice of servants. He would not be compelled to take into his council a whole pack together. He would not be compelled to consider who could make the best, or, rather, the longest, speeches, and who could carry with them the greatest number of votes. He would be free to select whomsoever he thought most able and most trust-worthy; while the Commons, on their side, could have no reason for undue bias or partiality, in this respect, at the same time, that, if the king had counsellors, whom they disapproved of, they would, at all times, have the power of censuring them, of impeaching them, or of causing their removal by following the old constitutional course of *refusing money*; which is now, all the world knows, a power that is never exercised, nor is it ever thought of being exercised.——Is there an evil we complain of, or feel, which cannot be traced to this source? Let Mr. Herbert review all the circumstances, which led to, and which have followed, the Cintra Convention; and, I am persuaded, that, whether in the appointments, the progress of the thing itself, or the proceedings consequent upon it, he will clearly discover the prime cause to be that very system of things, of which he professes himself to be an advocate. If the war-minister, or all the ministers together, had had no debatings and dividings to look to; if they had had nobody but their master to obey; no families or particular individuals to conciliate or gratify; they would have acted upon the evidence of their senses; and being men of common discernment at least, they could not have greatly erred. But, hampered, perplexed, divided in their feelings, as they constantly are, with duty on one side, and powerful importunity, not to say menace, on the other, is it any wonder that they so frequently yield to the latter, and that,

of that yielding, we have so frequently to suffer and to blush for the consequences? ——Such are the reasons, which induced me to propose the pledge, at Winchester; and, with me, at least, these reasons will continue to operate, until I hear something more forcible opposed to them, than what I have yet met with in any writing, ancient or modern.

SPANISH REVOLUTION.—Sir John Moore's dispatches, "*extracts*" from which were published in last *Tuesday's* Gazette, after having been kept close from *Sunday* noon, show most clearly, I think, that our army was in a perilous situation, at the close of the last month, and prepare us for hearing of a very calamitous result of the campaign. I have heard of a letter from the Marquis de la Romana to Sir John Moore, speaking of the *disposition of the people* of Spain; but, of *that letter* it would, I suppose, be unwise to give us a sight, until, at least, the course of our preparation is somewhat further advanced. The proclamations, however, of ROMANA and PALAFOX do enable those amongst us, who attend a little to authentic documents, to form a pretty accurate judgment of that disposition, which, according to evidence now referred to, is far from being what it has been described by our ministers and our news-papers.——The "*loyal*," indeed, are vomiting forth flames of furious abuse against those, who venture to express doubts as to the goodness of the disposition of the people of Spain; but, that abuse will not alter the fact; and, moreover, it may become difficult, by-and-by, to reconcile it with any defence of the movements of our army, and, what is more with these abusers, of the conduct of the ministers, whose sole ground of defence, if I am not very greatly deceived, must be, that the people of Spain were, after all, found not to be much disposed to resist Buonaparté. This will, after the manifold assertions made respecting the unanimous zeal of the Spaniards in the cause of their "beloved Ferdinand VII," be a most humiliating confession; it will be a fearful confession to make to the people of England, Ireland, and Scotland; but, the ministers have a choice of evils: they must make this confession; and they must also confess that they have, in this respect, been grossly deceived; or, they must confess, that they have had so little skill and energy, that, with a whole nation of eleven millions on their side, and with the complete command of all the sea-coast of the country, they have been unable to obtain for us or for Spain any thing but disappointment, loss, and disgrace, though they themselves had an army of two hundred thousand men, capable of being sent to Spain, with more than a sufficiency of ships to transport it thither, and safely to land it, at a time when a Frenchman dared not show his head upon the Peninsula.—— Now, when our armies are retreating for their lives; when they are hard pressed for their very existence; when, according to the dispatch of Sir John Moore, they are daily and hourly harrassed in their rear, and when the enemy's swiftest troops almost surround them; now, forsooth, the impudent hireling writers dare bid us look for hope *to the South*. Just as if any resistance would be made to an army that will, in all probability, not have left a British soldier in the whole of Spain and Portugal. Just as if the spirit of the people of Spain would rise after that. But, there is no measure to the deception, the falsehoods, the lies, the frauds, that are practised upon this cullible nation.——"*Extracts*"! Why extracts? Why did you not give us the *whole* of Sir John Moore's dispatches? You were afraid of the *cost*, perchance? Careful of our money, ah? Useless to waste it upon paper and print, when we want it for so many other purposes? Cry your mercy, my lord, I was not before aware of your œconomical turn. The whole must come at last. We must have it; and if you give it us not, Buonaparté, in his neighbourly malignity, certainly will give us something that will answer the same purpose.——Sentiments, resembling those expressed in my motto, have been repeated by me so often, since the resistance to Napoleon began, in Spain, that I am almost ashamed to repeat them; but if our *worst enemies* repeat their lies daily, I see no reason why I may not weekly repeat truths. "Spain has been lost from *the dread of liberty*," said a correspondent, the other day; and, really, I am much afraid, that this will prove but too true. What Napoleon has promised in his decrees, which will be found in another part of this sheet, the Junta should have promised before, and *why they did not*, will, perhaps, hereafter come to light. Are we told, that the people of Spain did not wish it? That they did not desire to see the Council of Castile, the Inquisition, and the Monks, put down? Besides the utter improbability, of this being, under any circumstances, true, we have the evidence, in the negative furnished by Napoleon's Decrees; for, we may be sure, and espe-

cially if we believe him to have made *false promises*, that those promises accord with the well-known wishes of the people, or, at least, of that part of the people, which it is of the greatest importance for him to have on his side. There is no denying this. The more we are convinced of his faithlessness; the more we are convinced of the truth of the assertion, that he will stick at nothing to secure success, the more complete our conviction must be, that the prevailing wish of the people was, and is, that that should be done, which he has now promised to do. Our news-papers accuse him of baseness, in making promises, which he does not mean to fulfil; but the question is, can they accuse him of making promises, which he does not think likely to insure his success in conquering Spain? They must do this, and then no soul would be fool enough to believe a word they say; or, they must admit that what he has promised, is consonant to the wishes of the people; and, if they make this admission, they will have to answer the question: why did not *we and the Junta* make similar promises?——A population of eleven millions, in a country like Spain, is not to be subdued by *arms*, if they have arms to defend themselves with, and hearts to use them; but, a population of ten times as many millions, if indifferent to their fate, is, what Mr. Windham described it, an "unresisting medium." If, therefore, we found, that promises, such as those now explicitly made by Napoleon, were necessary to rouze the people to arms, we should as the condition of our aid, have insisted upon the making of those promises; or, we should never have attempted to send an army to Spain.——It appears to me, that the very best that can be said for our not having insisted upon this, is, that we were not rightly informed upon the subject; that we were not duly apprised of the people's wishes. This is, at all times, a poor defence for men intrusted with the affairs of a nation, and particularly for men, who, it is notorious, had all the means of correct information completely in their hands.——A fraud! a fraud! I see a new fraud approaching, and I beseech the reader's attention to it without delay. While our troops were said to be advancing, they were, by all the newspapers, said to amount to 45,000 men, and those of Romana to 20,000; but, now, the retreat being sounded, ours are brought down to 35,000 men, and Romana's army is sunk out of sight. This is a nice counterpart to the sinking and raising of the numbers of the French in Portugal. And yet these same editors have the assurance to prefer the charge of falshood against Napoleon's bulletins; and, what is worse, gravely to sermonize upon the *immorality* of such falshoods!——About two weeks ago, we were in high glee, that Sir John Moore, joined by Romana, was about to envelope and capture, or cut to pieces, the corps of SOULT, which was said to be unsupported; but, *now*, we can most manfully revile Napoleon, because he has, "in such a cowardly manner," drawn together his whole force to march against "our little army."——Not a word do any of our intelligencers give us about the *Duc d'Abrantes*, who is, however, in Spain, with the *eight* or *ten*, and not the *twenty-seven*, thousand men, who ought to have been with him in England. Not a word about him. That is a sore point. But, in spite of all this disguise, his corps makes part of that army, before whom Sir John Moore is retreating to the coast; to that very coast, whence we carried the Duc d'Abrantes to land him in France.——Seeing that we have Sir John Moore's dispatches in so mutilated a state, it is hardly fair to judge of them; but, it does really surprise one to hear him talk, as if *what he had done* ought to enable the Spaniards in the South to do something. Poor fellows! they saw him approach near to a corps of the French army, and the moment the main army of the French began to move, they saw him retreat, pushing away as fast as possible towards the coast. What "profit" were they to derive from this? It is a sad mockery; but we have not the *whole* of the dispatch.——The public should be upon their guard against the accounts of the "*brilliant* affairs" of this or that detachment. I have no doubt that our *soldiers* are better than the French soldiers. They are cooler and stronger, and I verily believe more brave. But the words "fine fellow" and "gallant fellow," bestowed upon two or three men of interest, in letters from the army, like those that gave us an account of Sir Arthur Wellesley's Protest, will be no consolation to me, and, I think, will be no consolation to any rational man, for the waste of so much of our national means, and for the disgrace of being driven out of Spain, with an army of 45,000 Englishmen, without one single engagement with the enemy.

LIBEL LAW.——When I was in London, a few days ago, a Number of the "*Satyrist*" was put into my hands. This work was

mentioned, and a description of its authors was given, in pages 397 and 398 of the last volume of the Political Register. I then noticed their unjustifiable, their indecent and vile attack upon the wife and family of sir Richard Phillips, and said, that I had been told, that they were a nest of *turned-off*, half-starved authors. I now find, that I was very correctly informed; but, in the Number, which I have last seen, there is something so very infamous, that I cannot forbear pointing it out for the reprobation of the public.——The editors inform their readers, that MR. FINNERTY is *under prosecution for a libel* by the Attorney General for having edited the pamphlet of Major Hogan. *Then* they proceed to state certain things against him, all calculated to render him an object of public hatred and scorn, and, of course, *violently to prejudice against him those persons who may happen to be the jury upon the trial*, than which, surely, nothing can well be more wicked. Not content with this, however, they assert, that he has *fled from the country*, thereby giving a hint to the Attorney General, if he were so disposed, to cause the gentleman accused to be arrested, and imprisoned until the trial. The bold and unqualified manner, in which this assertion was made, led me to fear that it was true; but, upon inquiry, I found it to be false, and, since that inquiry was made, *I have seen Mr. Finnerty*, who was in town, I understand, all the while, and who was, as usual, engaged in his business, which is of a nature not to admit of his remaining within doors for any length of time. So that it is almost impossible, that the falsehood should not have been wilful, and uttered with the malignant view above described.

"Heav'n has no curse like love to hatred turn'd,
"Nor Hell a fury like a woman scorn'd."

And, I hear, that there are some *authoresses* engaged in this work, who though never scorned by men, perhaps, have been *scorned by the press*, a lover whose rejection they do not less sensibly feel.——At any rate, whether proceeding from the pen of a scorned authoress, or from that of a scorned author, I think, it will be admitted, that nothing ever was more diabolical. So base an act, to endeavour to excite, by known falshoods; deliberately to sit down, and, by such means, excite a deep prejudice in the minds of those, on whose good or bad opinion, might depend the liberty or imprisonment of the person attacked. I have now had a pretty long intercourse with the press; but, except in America, I certainly never did meet with any thing so wicked and base as this.——These vermin have, I find, long been attacking me, and I was shown, in London, several of their placards, against the walls, with my name in it. As the means of exciting curiosity, and of getting a few shillings, this might be well enough; nor am I, as far as relates to myself, at all disposed to blame them; leaving them to answer for their wilful falshoods, I grudge them nothing that they can get by me, to whom they cannot possibly do any harm. But, Mr. Finnerty is less known; with him the case is different; and, therefore, for his sake, and for the sake of others, whom they may calumniate, I will just state to the reader, that they have, in the most unequivocal terms, and in the boldest manner, asserted, that I DESERTED from the army. Let the reader now peruse the following authentic documents, which were long ago published; and then I am sure he will want nothing more to satisfy him, as to the degree of credit which is to be given to *any* thing which they assert.

"By the right hon. major lord Edward Fitzgerald, commanding his Majesty's 54th Regiment of Foot, whereof lieut. gen. Frederick is colonel.——These are to certify, that the bearer hereof, WILLIAM COBBETT, Serjeant Major in the aforesaid regiment, has served honestly and faithfully for the space of eight years, nearly seven of which he has been a non-commissioned officer, and of that time he has been five years Serjeant Major to the regiment; but having very earnestly applied for his discharge, he, in consideration of his good behaviour, and the services he has rendered the regiment, is hereby discharged.—Given under my hand and the seal of the regiment, at Portsmouth, this 19th day of December, 1791. EDWARD FITZGERALD.

"Portsmouth, 19th Dec. 1791.—Serjeant Major Cobbett having most pressingly applied for his discharge, at major lord Edw. Fitzgerald's request, general Frederick has granted it. General Frederick has ordered major lord Edw. Fitzgerald to return the Serjeant Major thanks for his behaviour and conduct during the time of his being in the regiment, and major lord Edward adds his most hearty thanks to those of the General."

Botley, 12th January, 1809.

COBBETT'S
COMPLETE COLLECTION OF
State Trials:

To be completed in Thirty-Six Monthly Parts, forming Twelve large Volumes in Royal Octavo,

The Second Part of the above Work will be published on the 1st of February. By some very respectable communications which have been made to me from gentlemen of the profession of the law, it appears that the intention which I originally entertained with respect to the *Pleadings*, was much misunderstood. Upon that subject, however, I trust all misunderstanding has been completely removed by the assurance given in the Register of the 31st of Dec. that the whole of those Pleadings will be scrupulously retained:. And in order to remove all professional doubts, as to how far this new and enlarged Edition of the State Trials may, with safety, be cited as authority in the Courts, and relied on as of equal authenticity with the former, I think it right to state, that it is intended to be a literal transcript of the last edition, as far as that edition extends; that where I have inserted fuller and better reports of any Cases, or of any parts of Cases, the text of the old Edition will nevertheless be retained; and that the new matter will be distinguished in a manner not to be mistaken, and be distinctly pointed out in the Table of Contents to each Volume. ☞ To such Gentlemen as may happen to be in possession of curious Trials, or of documents relating to Trials of the description of those to be contained in this Work, I shall be much obliged for a communication of them. If the document, or paper, whether in print or manuscript, be requested to be preserved, great care shall be taken of it.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Lord Moira's *Reasons for disapproving the Armistice and Convention of Cintra. (Concluded from p. 32.)*

HAD it been impracticable to reduce the French army to lay down its arms unconditionally, still an obligation not to serve for a specified time might have been insisted upon, or Belleisle might have been prescribed as the place at which they should be landed, in order to prevent the possibility of their reinforcing (at least for a long time) the armies employed for the subjugation of Spain. Perhaps a stronger consideration than the merit of those terms presents itself. Opinion relative to the British arms was of the highest importance, as it might influence the confidence of the Spaniards, or invite the nations groaning under the yoke of France to appeal to this country, and co-operate with it for their deliverance. The advantages ought, therefore, to have been more than usually great, which should be deemed sufficient to balance the objection of granting to a very inferior army, hopeless in circumstances, and broken in spirit, such terms as might argue, that notwithstanding its disparity in numbers, it was still formidable to its victors. No advantages seem to have been gained that would not have equally followed from forcing the enemy to a more marked submission. The gain of time as to sending succours into Spain cannot be admitted as a plea; because it appears that no arrangements for the reception of our troops in Spain had been undertaken previous to the Convention; and this is without reasoning on subsequent facts.—The Convention in Egypt, which has been advanced as a parallel case, appears to me inapplicable. No object beyond the dislodgment of the French from Egypt was there in question. In the present instance, the operation of the Convention upon the affairs of Spain was a consideration of primary interest and in that view, the inevitable effect of some of the articles offers itself to my mind as liable to material objection.—I trust that these reasons will vindicate me from the charge of presumption, in maintaining an opinion contradictory to that professed by so many most respectable officers: for even if the reasons be essentially erroneous, if they are conclusive to my mind (as I must conscientiously affirm them to be), it is a necessary consequence that I must disapprove the Convention.—Moira, General.—Dec. 27, 1808.

Spanish Revolution.—*Fourteenth Bulletin of the French Army of Spain, dated Madrid, Dec. 5,* 1808.—[The following are passages of the 14th Bulletin which were abridged in vol. xiv. p. 1019.]

A Butcher's boy from Estramadura, who commanded one of the gates, had the audacity to require the duke of Istria should go himself into the town with his eyes blindfolded. Gen. Montbrun rejected this presumptive demand with indignation. He was immediately surrounded, and effected his escape only by drawing his sword. He narrowly escaped falling a victim to the imprudence with which he had forgot that he had not to make war with

civilized enemies.—To take Madrid by assault might be a military operation of little difficulty; but to engage that great city to surrender, by employing alternately force and persuasion, and by rescuing the people of property, and real good men, from the oppression under which they groaned: this was what was really difficult. All the exertions of the emperor, during these two days, had no other end. They have been crowned with the greatest success.—It would have been difficult to form a conception of the disorder that reigned in Madrid, if a great number of prisoners, arriving in succession, had not given an account of the frightful scenes of every description, of which that capital presented the spectacle. They had intersected the streets, erected parapets on the houses; barricades of balls of wool, and of cotton, had been formed; the windows had been stopped with mattrasses. Those of the inhabitants who despaired of a successful resistance, were flying into the fields; others who had preserved some share of reason, and who preferred appearing in the midst of their property before a generous enemy, to abandoning it to the pillage of their fellow-citizens, demanded that they should not expose themselves to an assault. Those who were strangers to the town, or who had nothing to lose, were for a defence to the last extremity, accused the troops of the line, of treason, and obliged them to continue their fire.—The enemy had more than 100 pieces of cannon mounted; a more considerable number of two and three-pounders had been dug up, taken out of cellars, and tied upon carts, a grotesque train, and in itself sufficient to prove the madness of a people abandoned to itself. But all means of defence were become useless. The possessors of Retiro are always masters of Madrid. The emperor took all possible care to prevent the troops from going from house to house. The city was ruined if many troops had been employed. Only some companies of sharp-shooters advanced, and the emperor constantly refused to send any to sustain them. At eleven o'clock the prince of Neufchatel wrote the annexed letter, No. 3.—His majesty at the same time ordered the fire to cease on all points. —At five o'clock gen. Morla, one of the Members of the Military Junta, and Don Bernardo Yriarte, sent from the town, repaired to the tent of his serene highness the major general. They informed him that the most intelligent persons were of opinion that the town was destitute of resources, and that the continuation of the defence would be the height of madness; but that the lowest classes of the people, and the crowd of men strangers to Madrid, wished to defend themselves, and thought they could do it with effect. They required the day of the 4th to make the people listen to reason.—During the night the most mutinous withdrew themselves from the danger by flight, and a part of the troops was disbanded. At ten o'clock gen. Belliard took the command of Madrid; all the posts were put into the hands of the French, and a general pardon was proclaimed.—From this moment, men, women, and children, spread themselves about the streets in perfect security. The shops were open till eleven o'clock.—All the citizens set themselves to destroy the barricades and repave the streets, the monks returned into their convents, and in a few hours Madrid presented the most extraordinary contrast, a contrast inexplicable to those unaccustomed to the manners of great towns. So many men, who cannot conceal from themselves what they would have done in similar circumstances, express their astonishment at the generosity of the French. Fifty thousand stand of arms have been given up, and 100 pieces of cannon are collected at the Retiro. The anguish in which the inhabitants of this wretched city have lived for these four months cannot be described. The Junta was without influence; the most ignorant and the maddest of men had all the power in their hands, and the people at every instant massacred, or threatened with the gallows, their magistrates and their generals.—The general of brigade, Maison, has been wounded. Gen. Bruyere, who advanced imprudently the moment the firing ceased, has been killed. Twelve soldiers have been killed, and fifty wounded. This loss, so trifling for an event of so much importance, is owing to the smallness of the number of troops suffered to engage: it is owing besides, we must say, to the extreme cowardice of all those that had arms in their hands against us.—The artillery, according to its usual custom, has done great services. Ten thousand fugitives, who had escaped from Burgos and Somosierra, and the second division of the army of reserve, were on the 3rd within three leagues of Madrid; but being charged by a picquet of dragoons, they fled, abandoning forty pieces of cannon, and 60 caissons.—A meritorious trait cited. An old general

retired from the service, and aged eighty years, was in his house at Madrid, near the street of Alcala—a French officer entered, and took up his quarters there with his party. This respectable old man appeared before him, holding a young girl by the hand, and said, "I am an old soldier; I know the rights and the licentiousness of war; there is my daughter; I give her 900,000 livres for her portion; save her honour, and be her husband." The young officer took the old man, his family, and his house, under his protection. How culpable are they who expose so many peaceful citizens, so many unfortunate inhabitants of a great capital, to such misfortunes —The duke of Dantzic arrived at Segovia on the 3d. The duke of Istria is gone in pursuit of the division of Pena, which having escaped from the battle of Tudela, took the route of Guadalaxara. Florida Blanca, and the Junta, had fled to Toledo. They did not think themselves in safety in that town neither, and have gone to take refuge with the English.—The conduct of the English is shameful. On the 20th Nov. they were at the Escurial to the number of 6000 men. They passed some days there. They pretended they would do nothing less than pass the Pyrenees, and come to the Garonne. Their troops are very fine, and well disciplined. The confidence with which they had inspired the Spaniards is inconceivable. Some hoped that this division would go to Somosierra; others, that it would come to defend the capital of so dear an ally. Scarcely were they informed that the emperor was at Somosierra, when the English troops beat a retreat on the Escurial. From thence, combining their march with the division which was at Salamanca, they have taken their course towards the sea. "Arms, powder, and clothing, they have given to us," said a Spaniard, "but their soldiers came only to excite us, to lead us astray, and to abandon us in the critical moment." "But are you ignorant," answered the French officer, "of the most recent facts of our history. What have they done for the Stadtholder, for Sardinia, for Austria? What have they done recently for Russia? What have they done still more recently for Sweden? They every where foment war; they distribute arms like poison; but they shed their blood only for their direct and personal interests. Expect nothing else from their selfishness." "Still," replied the Spaniard, "their cause was ours. Forty thousand English, added to our forces at Tudela, and at Espinosa, might have balanced the fortune of the war and saved Portugal. But at present, that our army of Blake on the left; that of the centre, and that of Arragon on the right are destroyed; that Spain is almost entirely conquered, and that reason is about to complete its submission, what is to become of Portugal? It is not at Lisbon that the English ought to defend themselves, they ought to have done so at Espinosa, at Burgos, at Tudela, at Somosierra, and before Madrid."

Fifteenth Bulletin, dated Madrid, Dec. 7.

His majesty has named the general of artillery, Senarmont, general of division. The major Legur has been named adjutant commandant. The life of this officer had been despaired of, but he is now out of danger. The count Khrazinski, colonel of the Polish light horse, though ill, has always wished to charge at the head of his corps. The sieurs Babecki and Wolygurski, quarter-masters, and Surzeyski, a soldier of the Polish light horse, who have taken standards from the enemy, have been named members of the legion of honour. His majesty has moreover granted to the Polish light horse eight decorations for the officers, and so many for the soldiers. The chief of squadron, Lubienski, reconnoitred, on the 2nd, the remains of the army of Castanos, near Guadalaxara. They were under the command of general Pena. Castanos was said to have been deposed by the General Junta. The duke of Infantado has been one of the principal causes of the misfortunes his country has suffered; he was the principal instrument in England, in its lamentable progress against Spain; it was he who was employed by that country to cause dissensions between the father and the son; to overturn the throne of Charles, whose attachment to France was known; to excite outrages against the first minister of that sovereign; to elevate to the supreme power that young prince, who, by his marriage with a princess of the ancient house of Naples, had drank in that hatred against the French, from which that house had never departed. It was the duke of Infantado who played the principal part in the conspiracy of the Escurial, and it was to him that the power of generalissimo of the armies of Spain was confided at that time. He was afterwards seen taking the oath of allegiance at Bayonne between the hands of king Joseph, as colonel of the Spanish guards. On his return to Madrid, we saw him throw off the masque, and shew himself

openly the man of the English. It was in his house that the ministers of England were lodged; it was in his society that the agents accredited and secret of that power lived. After having exhorted his fellow-citizens to a mad resistance, he was seen, with a cowardice equal to his treason, flying from Madrid to Guadalaxara, under the pretext of going to bring reinforcements, withdrawing himself by this stratagem from the dangers into which he had drawn his fellow-citizens, and shewing no anxiety except for the English agent, whom he carried off in his own carriage, and whom he served for an escort. And what will he gain by this conduct? He will lose his title, his property, valued at 2,000,000 livres a year; he will go to London, to seek the contempt, the disdain, and ingratitude with which England has always rewarded the men who sacrifice their country to the injustice of her cause. The Bulletin continues, "As soon as the report of the chief of squadron, count Lubienski, was known, the duke of Istria put himself in march, with 16 squadrons of cavalry, to observe the enemy. The duke of Belluno followed with the infantry. The duke of Istria arrived at Guadalaxara, and found there the rear-guard of the enemy, which was filing towards Andalusia, dispersed it, and made 500 prisoners. The general of division Ruffin, and the brigade of dragoons of Bordesault, informed that the enemy were moving towards Aranjuez, proceeded to that place. The enemy were put to flight, and all these troops were immediately put in pursuit of all those that are flying towards Andalusia.—The general of division Lahoussaye entered the Escurial on the 3rd. Five or 600 peasants wished to defend the convent, but were driven out by a brisk attack.—Every day contributes to dissipate the remains of the stupor into which the inhabitants of Madrid had fallen. Those who had concealed their moveables and precious effects, are bringing them back to their houses. Their shops are furnished as in ordinary times. The barricades, and all the other preparations of defence, have disappeared. The taking possession of Madrid has been executed without disorder, and tranquillity reigns in all parts of that great town. A fuzileer of the guards having been found with a number of watches upon him, and being convicted of having stolen them, has been shot in the principal place of Madrid. We have found in that city 200,000 pound weight of powder; 10,000 balls; 2,000,000 pound weight of lead; 100 pieces of field artillery, and 120,000 muskets, mostly English. The disarming continues without any difficulty, all the inhabitants conform to it with the greatest willingness; they return with eagerness and good faith to the royal authority which rescues them from the mischievous influence of England, from the violence of factions, and the disorders of popular movements. The king of Spain has created a regiment which bears the name of the "Royal Foreigners," into which are admitted the deserters and the Germans who were in the service of Spain. He has also formed a Swiss regiment, called that of Reding the younger, that officer having conducted himself like a real Swiss patriot, and in a manner very different from gen. Reding. The one has deserved well from his countrymen, and will every where obtain esteem; the other, generally despised, will go to the taverns of London to enjoy a pension of some hundreds of pounds sterling, badly earned, and paid with disdain.—He must emigrate from the continent. The regiments of Royal Foreigners, and Reding the younger, consist already of many thousands of men.—The 5th and 8th corps of the army of Spain, and three divisions of cavalry, are but passing the Bidassoa; they are yet very far from being in line, and yet a very great number of victories have been obtained, and the greatest part of the business is done.

Sixteenth Bulletin, dated Madrid, Dec. 8.

The duke of Montebello bestows much praise on the conduct of the general of brigade, Ponzet, in the battle of Tudela; on that of generals Lefebvre, on the general of brigade of artillery Couin, and also on that of his aid-de-camp, Guchenene, who was wounded. He makes particular mention of three regiments from the Vistula. General of brigade Angerau, who charged at the head of the division of Morlot, distinguished himself. M. M. Viry and Labedoyere took a piece of artillery in the midst of the enemy's line. The latter was slightly wounded in the arm.—His majesty has appointed colonel Pepin, general of brigade, and the Polish major Kliki, colonel. The Polish colonel Kasinouski, who was wounded, has been appointed a member of the legion of honour.—Ruffin, general of division, having passed the Tagus at Aranjuez, pushed on to Ocana, and cut off the retreat of the remains *(débris)* of the army of Andalusia, who were retiring to Andalusia, and who, being frustrated in this design, have thrown

themselves upon Cuença. — The divisions of cavalry under general Lasalle and Melhaud, have directed their march for Portugal, by Talavera de la Reina. — The duke of Dantzic arrived this day at Madrid with his division of the army.—Marshal Ney, with his division, has reached Guadalaxara, coming from Saragossa.—His majesty, anxious to spare the inhabiants of that town from the horrors inseparable from a capture by storm, was unwilling that Saragossa should be attacked, before the intelligence of the events at Madrid, and of the dispersion of the Spanish armies should be known there. If, however, that city should obstinately make resistance, mines and bombs should obtain satisfaction. — The 8th division has entered Spain. General Delaborde is about to establish his head quarters at Vittoria.—The Polish division, under the orders of general Valence, arrived this day at Buitrago.— The English are retreating on all sides. The division of Lasalle has, however, fallen in with 15 men, whom they have put to the sword. — They were stragglers, or men who had lost their way.—Marshal Mortier will arrive on the 16th in Catalonia, to turn the enemy's army, and to form a junction with the generals Duhesme and St. Cyr.—On the 23d of Nov. the breach in the castle of Trinity of the city of Rosas, was found on approaching it, to be practicable. On the same day, the English landed 400 men at the foot of the castle. A battalion of Italians marched against them, killed 10 men, wounded above that number, and drove the rest into the sea. —About 30 vessels were observed to come out of the harbour of Rosas, which induced a belief that the inhabitants had begun to evacuate the town.—On the 24th, the advanced guard of the enemy encamped on the Fluvia, consisting of about 5 or 6000 men, commanded by general Alvarez, came in several columns, to attack the posts of Navara, Pientos, Armodas, and Garrigas, occupied by general Souham's division. The 1st regiment of light infantry, and 4th bat. light infantry, were alone opposed to the enemy, sustained the attack with firmness, and finally put them to flight.—The enemy has been repulsed on the other side of the Fluvia with considerable loss in killed and wounded. Several prisoners have been made, among whom are col. Le Brun, the second in command of the expedition, and col. of the regiment of Tarragona, and the major and a captain of that regiment.

Seventeenth Bulletin, dated Madrid, Dec. 10.

His majesty reviewed yesterday on the Prado, the duke of Dantzic's corps, which arrived the day before yesterday at Madrid; he expressed his satisfaction at these brave troops. To-day he reviewed the troops of the Confederation of the Rhine, forming the division commanded by gen. Leval. The regiments of Nassau and Baden behaved well—The regiment of Hesse Darmstadt did not sustain the reputation of the troops of that country—The colonel and major appear to be men of moderate talents.—The duke of Istria set off on the 6th for Guadalaxara. He scoured the whole road from Saragossa and Valencia—made 500 prisoners, and took a great deal of baggage. At Bastau a battalion of 500 men, summoned by the cavalry, were broken in upon. The enemy's army beaten at Tudela, Catalayud, abandoned by its generals, and a great number of soldiers, was reduced to 6,000 men. On the 8th at midnight, the duke of Istria attacked, at Santa Cruz, a corps which covered the flight of the enemy's army. That corps was closely pursued, and a thousand prisoners taken. It wished to throw itself into Andalusia by Madridego. It appears to have been forced to disperse in the mountains of Cuença.

Intercepted Correspondence, published by the French.

The following Intercepted Correspondence has been published by the French. It is annexed to the 17th Bulletin of the French army, and is introduced by the following short preface: "We found at Madrid at the duke de Infantado's, two caskets, containing the papers of the princess of Asturias, in which are things of the greatest importance. The passage in a letter from her mother, dated on the 15th Jan. 1806, informs us of the opinion which the queen of Sicily has herself of the English. These letters are full of proofs of the conspiracy which was forming to break the friendship between France and Spain."

Copy of what is written in sympathetic ink in the Letter of Queen Charlotte to the Princess of Asturias: dated Jan. 15, 1806.

"My beloved child, I am infinitely uneasy at your situation, your health, and the increased grief you will have in hearing of our cruel fate.—But rely upon my truth. Do not give credit to any alarm, which they will not fail in charity to give you, and be prudent.—I shall write to you with perfect sincerity, and believe no other news, for I promise the heart and

tenderness of my dear child to hide nothing from you—Do not then believe any one but me—We keep all in good health—but are dreadfully uneasy—Massena has been with 50,000 men on our frontier, since this fatal and accursed debarkation of the English, who with a cowardly perfidy without example, have, after having compromised us, quitted us at the moment of the greatest danger. They have ruined us—Buonaparte causes nothing to be said or written, and we shall be lost indeed. We have but 8,000 men in arms—During the two years and a half the French remained with us, they exacted that we should make no recruiting. They have thereby rendered all our force useless, and we are thus at their mercy, without the hope of defending ourselves against a force of 50,000 men, and if they choose of 100,000 men. Austria destroyed, and for 50 years null—in short, it is a misery without example, to which our holy religion alone can make us resigned, that only consolation in all our miseries. We are packing up every thing, for from the frontiers to Naples is the affair of six or seven days, and we cannot suffer ourselves to be made prisoners. Thus we are preparing every thing for a disastrous and eternal departure, and it wrings my heart. The king has sent cardinal gen. Ruffo to Rome, and has sent also to Paris. But neither Fesch, nor Alquier, nor Eugene Beauharnois, nor Massena can, as they say, stop the march of the troops. Hence, St. Theodore, who has been dispatched to join Gallo, and to speak to him upon these points, remains at Rome to watch over our affairs; and the cardinal is gone to find Buonaparte either at Munich or at Paris, to try to save us. Your good father is ready to satisfy the general wish, and abdicate and leave Francis the (hereditary prince) king, reserving to himself a good pension, the fruit of a part of the advances made by him to the royal finances. Many think this will be sufficient to calm the storm; but I do not think it, and am convinced that the enemy wish for the kingdom of Naples. If the danger approach, we shall retire to Messino and into Calabria, to defend ourselves, at least there, and prevent the capture of Sicily—Judge—Leopold, your two sisters, a daughter-in-law, seven months pregnant, who will lay in at Messina, Palermo, God knows where, two little children so interesting. In fine every body is in tears. No one will remain. Every one, frightened by the last time, wishes to go off. We have neither squadron, nor any thing but two ships—it is a real desolation.——You shall know every thing—be prudent—do not shew any ill temper at the harsh things that may be told you.—Let them pass—they signify nothing.—God will judge us and posterity.—No false interpretations—Your two sisters are in deep affliction. Leopold and Francis will go to Calabria to defend the posts.—In short, God has permitted it—his holy will be done—Think, my dear child, of re-establishing your health—Conduct yourself well—this life is short—the other is eternal and sure—Do not afflict yourself at any thing—I shall find means to inform you of every thing that concerns us—But do not make yourself uneasy—God will aid us—Adieu my dear child—think of your health—try to restore it—I bless you—I embrace you, and am for life your tender mother and friend. —— In the narrative of Colugno there is nothing written. Inform me if you have received all safe, and can read it. Adieu, with heart and soul, yours wholly, notwithstanding my dreadful misery."

Copy of what is written in sympathetic ink in the Letter from Queen Charlotte to the Princess of Asturias, Jan. 30, 1806.

"Dear and beloved child, do not be uneasy at our fate; only take care of your health. God will have pity upon us, and nothing will happen unto us. If we are obliged to fall back upon Sicily, I will endeavour, when we shall be all assembled together, to send a vessel, under the pretence of quieting the heart of the queen for her daughter: but, in fact, to assure you, my beloved child, with respect to our fate.—Be prudent, do not speak out and let every thing be said.—I have nothing to reproach myself.—Joseph Bonaparte is believed to be destined to the throne of Naples—that is villainous enough—God permits it; we must bow our heads.—Francis conducts himself exemplarily, and no one can behave better;—Isabella (his wife, the daughter of the queen of Spain), is in the 8th month of her pregnancy; but happily she has such apathy, is so silly and null that she feels nothing warmly—it is good for her health.—Your sisters and myself have not the same happiness.—I cannot express to you, my child, our torments—but God will aid us; do not be uneasy, and think only of your health—Let them criticise, talk and discuss every thing without feeling the misery of it—Be attached to your good husband—Be prudent, wise—I rely on you.——Adieu, dear child, I have many things to say to you, but time presses—I embrace you from the

bottom of my heart, and am your tender mother and friend.——I write to the queen and to your husband—to the former, to speak to her of her child—to the other to tell him that it is his duty to write to me, and that he should be seen—Adieu, I will endeavour to send you intelligence relative to me—Be tranquil on our account—I embrace you—Adieu."

Eighteenth Bulletin, dated Madrid, Dec. 12.

THE Central Junta of Spain had but little power; the greater part of the provinces paid it little submission, and all of them deprived it of the administration of the finances. It was under the influence of the lowest class of the people: it was governed by the minority. Florida Blanca was without any credit. The Junta was under the controul of two men, the one named Lorenzo Calvo, a grocer of Saragossa, who had in a few months obtained the title of 'Excellency.' He is one of those violent men who appear in revolutions,—his honesty was more than suspected. The other is called Tilly, formerly condemned to the gallies as a thief; the younger brother of a man of the name of Gusman, who formerly played a part under Robespierre during the reign of terror. As soon as any of the members of the Junta opposed the violent measures that were proposed, these two wretches immediately called out 'treason,' and immediately a mob was collected under the windows of Aranjuez. The extravagance and wickedness of these dangerous men, was manifested upon all occasions. As soon as they learnt that the emperor was at Burgos, and he would soon be at Madrid, they published a declaration of war against France replete with insults and folly.—On the 11th, when the general of division Lassalle, who was pursuing the enemy, arrived at Talavara de le Reyna, where the English had passed triumphantly, ten days before, saying they were going to relieve the capital, a frightful spectacle met the eyes of the French. A body cloathed in the uniform of a Spanish general was suspended from a gallows, and pierced with a thousand bullets. It was the general Benito San Jean, whom his soldiers in their terror, and as an excuse for their commander, cruelly sacrificed. The bishops of Leon and Astorga, and a great number of ecclesiastics, distinguished themselves by their good conduct and their apostolic virtues; the general pardon offered by the emperor, has produced a great effect. The destruction of the duties odious to the people and contrary to the prosperity of the state, and the measures which leave the numerous class of monks no longer any uncertainty respecting their lot, produced a good effect. The general animadversion is against the English.—The peasants say in their language, that at the approach of the French the English went away to mount the wooden horses (ships.)

Nineteenth Bulletin, dated Madrid, Dec. 13.

ROSAS surrendered on the 6th by capitulation. Two thousand men have been made prisoners. A considerable quantity of artillery was found in the place. Six English ships of the line which were at anchor in the harbour, would not carry away the garrison.—The emperor this day reviewed the whole of the united troops of the duke of Dantzic, beyond the bridge of Segovia. Sebastiani's division has marched for Talavira de la Regna. The breaking up of the Spanish troops is observed on every side. The new levies which were attempted to be raised, disperse on all sides, and return to their homes. The details which we learn from the Spaniards respecting the Central Junta, are all of a nature to place them in a most ridiculous point of view. That assembly is already become an object of contempt with all Europe. Its members, to the number of 86, have bestowed upon themselves titles and ribbons of every sort, and an annual allowance of 60,000 livres. Florida Blanca was a real man of Spain: he is now ashamed of the dishonour he has brought upon his old age. As usually happens in such assemblies, two or three persons domineer over all the rest, and these two or three persons were in the pay of England.—The opinion held by the city of Madrid respecting the Junta is notorious: they are as much the object of the mockery and derision, as they are of the detestation of the inhabitants of the capital. Never was there so fine a December—It is like the beginning of spring. The emperor avails himself of the fine weather to remain in the country one league from Madrid.

Proclamation by Buonaparte.

SPANIARDS,—You have been misled by perfidious men. They have engaged you in a senseless struggle, and you have had recourse to arms. Is there one amongst you, who after a moment's reflection upon all that has passed, would not be convinced that you have been the sport of the eternal enemies of the Continent, who take delight in witnessing the effusion of Spanish and French blood? What possible result would attend even the success of some

campaigns? An endless war upon the soil, and a tedious uncertainty respecting the fate of your properties and lives. Within the space of a few months, you have been delivered up to all the afflictions of popular factions. The defeat of your armies has been the work of some marches; I have entered Madrid: the rights of the war would justify me in such a signal example, by washing away in blood the outrages offered to me and to my nation: but I have listened to the dictates of clemency only. Some men, the authors of all your calamities, shall alone be punished. I shall speedily drive from the Peninsula that English army which has been sent to Spain, not for the purpose of assistance to you, but to inspire you with a false confidence and to mislead you.—I had declared to you in my Proclamation of the 2nd of June, that I wished to be your regenerator. To the rights which had been ceded to me by the princes of the last Dynasty, you wished that I should add the right of conquest. That shall not make any alteration in my intention. I am even disposed to praise all that may be generous in your efforts; I am willing to admit, that your real interests have been concealed from you, that the real state of things has been disguised from you. Spaniards, your destiny is in your hands. Reject the persons which the English has spread amongst you:—let your king be assured of your affections and your confidence, and you will be more powerful and more happy than ever you have been. All that obstructed your prosperity and your grandeur, I have destroyed; the chains which bore down the people, I have broken; a free Constitution gives you a limited and constitutional, instead of an absolute Monarchy. It depends upon yourselves whether this Constitution shall still continue in your land.—

(To be continued.)

British Army in Spain.—*From the London Gazette, dated Downing-street, Jan.* 10, 1809.

Dispatches, from which the following are extracts, were, on the 8th instant, received at the office of lord visc. Castlereagh, one of his majesty's principal Secretaries of State, from lieut.-gen. sir John Moore, k. b. commander-in-chief of his majesty's forces employed in Spain:

Benevente, Dec. 28, 1808.—Since I had the honour to address you upon the 16th, from Toro, the army has been almost constantly marching through snow, and with cold that has been very intense. The weather, within these few days, has turned to rain, which is much more uncomfortable than the cold, and has rendered the roads almost impassable. On the 21st the army reached Sahagun; it was necessary to halt there in order to refresh the men, and on account of provisions. The information I received was, that marshal Soult was at Saldana with about 16,000 men, with posts along the river from Guarda to Carrion.—The army was ordered to march in two columns, at 8 o'clock on the night of the 23rd, to force the bridge at Carrion, and from thence proceed to Saldana. At 6 that evening, I received information that considerable reinforcements had arrived at Carrion from Palencia, and a letter from the marquis de la Romana informed me that the French were advancing from Madrid either to Valladolid or Salamanca. It was evident that it was too late to prosecute the attempt upon Soult, that I must be satisfied with the diversion I had occasioned, and that I had no time to lose to secure my retreat.—The next morning lieut.-gen. Hope, with his own division and that of lieut.-gen. Fraser, marched to Majorga. I sent sir David Baird, with his division, to pass the river at Valmira, and followed lieut.-gen. Hope on the 25th with the reserve and light brigades, by Majorga, Valderas, to Benevente. The cavalry under lord Paget followed the reserve on the 26th; both the latter corps entered this place yesterday. We continue our march on Astorga. Generals Hope and Fraser are already gone on; sir David Baird proceeds to-morrow from Valencia; and I shall leave this with the reserve at the same time; lord Paget will remain with the cavalry, to give us notice of the approach of the enemy; hitherto their infantry have not come up, but they are near, and the cavalry is round us in great numbers; they are checked by our cavalry, which have obtained, by their spirit and enterprise, an ascendancy over that of the French, which nothing but great superiority of numbers on their part will get the better of.—The diversion made by our march on Sahagun, though at great risk to ourselves, has been complete; it remains to be seen what advantage the Spaniards in the South will be able to take of it; but the march of the French on Badajoz was stopped when its advanced guard had reached Talaveira de la Reine, and every thing disposeable is now turned

in this direction.—The only part of the army which has been hitherto engaged with the enemy, has been the cavalry, and it is impossible for me to say too much in their praise. I mentioned to your lordship, in my letter of the 16th, the success brig.-gen. Stewart had met with in defeating a detachment of cavalry at Rueda. Since that, few days have passed without his taking or killing different parties of the French, generally superior in force to those which attacked them. On the march to Sahagun, lord Paget had information of 6 or 700 cavalry being in that town. He marched on the night of the 20th from some villages where he was posted in front of the enemy at Majorga, with the 10th and 15th hussars. The 10th marched straight to the town, whilst lord Paget, with the 15th, endeavoured to turn it. Unfortunately, he fell in with a patrole, one of whom escaped, and gave the alarm. By this means the French had time to form on the outside of the town, before lord Paget got round. He immediately charged them, beat them, and took from 140 to 150 prisoners, amongst whom were two lieutenant-colonels and 11 officers, with the loss, on our part, of 6 or eight men, and perhaps 20 wounded.—There have been taken by the cavalry from 4 to 500 French, besides a considerable number killed; this since we begun our march from Salamanca. On his march from Sahagun, on the 20th, lord Paget, with two squadrons of the 10th, attacked a detachment of cavalry at Majorga, killed twenty, and took above 100 prisoners. Our cavalry is very superior in quality to any the French have; and the right spirit has been infused into them by the example and instruction of their two leaders, lord Paget and brig.-general Stewart.

Astorga, Dec. 31, 1808.—I arrived here, yesterday; major gen. Fraser, with his division, will be at Villa Franca this day, and will proceed on to Lugo. Lieut. gen. Hope with his division, stopped yesterday two leagues from this, and proceeds this morning, followed by sir David Baird. The two flank brigades go by the road of Penfereda. I shall follow with the reserve and cavalry, to Villa Franca, either this night or to-morrow morning, according as I hear the approach of the French The morning I marched from Benevente, seven squadrons of Buonaparte's guards passed the river at a ford above the bridge. They were attacked by brig. gen. Stewart, at the head of the piquets of the 18th and 3rd German light dragoons, and driven across the ford. Their colonel, a general of division, Lefebre, was taken, together with about 70 officers and men.—The affair was well contested. The numbers with which brig gen. Stewart attacked were inferior to the French; it is the corps of the greatest character in their army; but the superiority of the British was, I am told, very conspicuous. I inclose, for your lordship's satisfaction, lord Paget's report of it.

Benevente, Dec. 29, 1808.—Sir; I have the honour to inform you, that about nine o'clock this morning I received a report that the enemy's cavalry was in the act of crossing the river at the ford near the bridge. I immediately sent down the piquets of the night, under lieut. col. Otway of the 18th. Having left orders that the cavalry should repair to their alarm posts, I went forward to reconnoitre, and found four squadrons of imperial guards formed and skirmishing with the piquets and other cavalry in the act of passing. I sent for the 10th hussars, who having arrived, brig. gen. Stewart immediately placed himself at the head of the piquets, and, with the utmost gallantry, attacked. The 10th hussars supported in the most perfect order. The result of the affair, as far as I have yet been able to collect, is about 30 killed, 25 wounded, 70 prisoners, and about the same number of horses. It is impossible for me to avoid speaking in the highest terms of all those engaged. Lieut. col. Otway and major Bagwell headed the respective night piquets. The latter is slightly wounded. The utmost zeal was conspicuous in the whole of my staff; and I had many volunteers from headquarters, and other officers of your army. Amongst the prisoners is the general of division Lefebre, (who commands the cavalry of the imperial guard,) and two captains. Our loss is, I fear, nearly 50 men killed and wounded. I will send a return the moment I can collect the reports. I have the honour to be, &c. PAGET, lieut. gen.

I have forwarded the prisoners to Baniza. On the other side of the river the enemy formed again, and at this instant three guns of Captain Donovan's troop arrived, which did considerable execution.

LONDON: Printed by T. C. HANSARD, Peterborough Court, Fleet Street; Published by R. BAGSHAW, Brydges-Street, Covent-Garden: Sold also by J. BUDD, Pall Mall.